

~~Please amend the claims as follows:~~

~~Please cancel claims 1-17 and substitute the following claims:~~

18. A method to prepare a modified nucleic acid molecule, said nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding at least a first and second module of a modular PKS, wherein said first module is immediately N-terminal to said second module and wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises a mutation such that the catalytic domain of the ketosynthase of the first module of said encoded PKS is inactivated, said encoding nucleotide sequence operably linked to control sequences for its expression,  
which method comprises effecting said mutation in said nucleic acid molecule.

*A4  
Unpatentable*

19. A method to prepare an antibiotic which method comprises adding a macrolide to the culture medium of *Saccharopolyspora erythraea*;  
culturing said *S. erythraea* in said medium so as to convert said macrolide into an antibiotic; and  
extracting the antibiotic from the medium.

*Sub B1*

20. The method of claim 37 wherein the *S. erythraea* is a mutant that produces no macrolide.

21. The method of claim 38 wherein said *S. erythraea* mutant is mutant A34.

22. The method of claim 39 wherein said macrolide is other than 6-dEB.